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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE), AR, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MONDALE-VIDELA MEETING

1. IN RESPONSE TO AN URGENT REQUEST FROM ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR A BRIEF MEETING WHILE BOTH ARE IN ROME FOR THE INSTALLATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL I, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AGREED TO A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS THE RAPID DETERIORATION IN U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL HOLD NO OTHER BILATERALS IN ROME (PARAGUAYAN FONMIN NOGUES ALSO REQUESTED A SESSION). IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE MONDALE-VIDELA MEETING WILL BREAK IN THE MEDIA, DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH YOU MAY USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY.

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Q: WILL (DID) VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE MEET WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA IN ROME?

A: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AGREED TO A REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT VIDELA TO MEET IN ROME. THE MEETING WILL AFFORD (HAS AFFORDED) AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW FURTHER THE CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

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Department of State, A/GS/IPS/SSRP
Change to
(Release) (Decide) (Declassify)
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With concurrence of _____
IPS by *[Signature]* Date 12-27-06
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Q: IS THE VICE PRESIDENT MEETING (HAS HE MET) WITH ANYONE ELSE?

A: THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TIME FOR EXTRA MEETINGS NOW. PRESIDENT VIDELA ASKED TO SEE THE VICE PRESIDENT, SO A SHORT MEETING WAS ARRANGED.

Q: WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?

A: THEY BRIEFLY REVIEWED IN A GENERAL WAY THE STATE OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. BOTH OF THEM AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THIS RELATIONSHIP.

Q: ISN'T HUMAN RIGHTS ONE OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ARGENTINA?

A: YES. IT WAS OF COURSE ONE OF THE TOPICS WHICH WAS COVERED DURING THEIR REVIEW OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

2. WE HAVE TOLD THE ARGENTINES THAT WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING SHOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO PUBLICIZE THE MEETING. THE ARGENTINES AGREED. FOR THIS REASON, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR TREATING
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THE ABOVE AS HIGHLY SENSITIVE, WITH PRESS USE ONLY IN EVENT MEETING BREAKS IN YOUR LOCAL MEDIA AND ON IF-ASKED BASIS.

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TAGS: ART, US, DIVISION

SUASSA PROPOSED VIDELA-MONDALE MEETING IN ROME

1. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS ITALIAN PRESS HAS BEEN FILLED WITH STORIES PROTESTING IMMINENT ARRIVAL HERE OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA TO HEAD HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION TO PAPAL INAUGURAL. ANGRY, BITTER ARTICLES OBJECT TO "DIKTATOR" VIDELA'S MERE PRESENCE IN ITALY WHICH SOME PAPERS CHARACTERIZE AS "INSULT TO ALL CATHOLICS." POSSIBILITY OF ORGANIZED POLITICAL PROTESTS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED.

2. WHILE EMBASSY WILL MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE TO PRESS OF PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN VICE PRESIDENT AND VIDELA, PRESENCE OF JOURNALISTS AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE REMARKS) DURING TIME OF PROPOSED MEETING, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF LEAKS FROM ARGENTINE DELEGATION, POSE THREAT TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF ENCOUNTER WHICH CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF ITALIAN PRESS WOULD SEEK TO USE TO DETRIMENT OUR INTERESTS HERE.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD PREPARE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE IN EVENT OF LEAKS. WE PROPOSE RESPONSE FOR USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE: VICE PRESIDENT MONDAZ MET BRIEFLY THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EARLIER CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
END QUOTE. PLEASE ADVISE.

BARTH, ING, VP, SCHAFFTER
EDD:MATHEWS, HUNTER, PASTOR

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PRIVACY REQUESTED AND FILED UNDER E.O. 14176 8/17/2023
[Redacted, DoD] Visit to Brazil & Venezuela (3/12-16/78) [DoD Trip Action]
Foreign Trips - VP's Visit to Rome, Italy, 9/2-4/78; Diplomatic
Cables, 9/1-5/78

media reaction in 5 Sept 78 Rome 16385